

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8858

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, BC, SF (TRANSKEI)

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA MEDIA BLASTS TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE

1. BOTSWANA MEDIA IS CARRYING CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE OF TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE. RADIO BOTSWANA REPORTED EVEN MORNING OF OCT. 26 USING EXPECTED LANGUAGE SUCH AS SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE AND EXTENSION OF APARTHEID.

2. DAILY NEWS OF SAME DAY FEATURES VERY NEGATIVE EDITORIAL CRITICISING TRANSKEI AS FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN REGION WHERE SOME AFRICANS BETRAYED THEIR FELLOW MEN. EDITORIAL DESCRIBED TRANSKEI LEADERS AS "ALMOST ILLITERATE, BARBAROUS AND PERHAPS EVEN SORCEROUS CHIEFS."

3. SIMILARLY CRITICAL IS DAILY NEWS ARTICLE ENTITLED BOGUS INDEPENDENCE OF APARTHEID REPUBLIC BY E.L. NTLOEDIBE, PAN-UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICAN CONGRESS OFFICIAL WHO VISITED BOTSWANA IN LATE SEPTEMBER

FOR TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. ARTICLE DISCUSSES BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BANTUSTAN CONCEPT OF WHICH TRANSKEI IS FIRST CROWN PRINCE. AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT TRANSKEI DOES NOT EXIST UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE TREATIES ONLY THROUGH SAG. NTLOEDIBE STATES THAT AUTOMATIC IMPOSITION OF HOMELAND CITIZENSHIP (AND RESULTING DEPRIVATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP) IS NAZISM AND A VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE ALSO CHARACTERIZES ANY RECOGNITION OF TRANSKEI AS CALCULATED INSULT TO THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS.

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